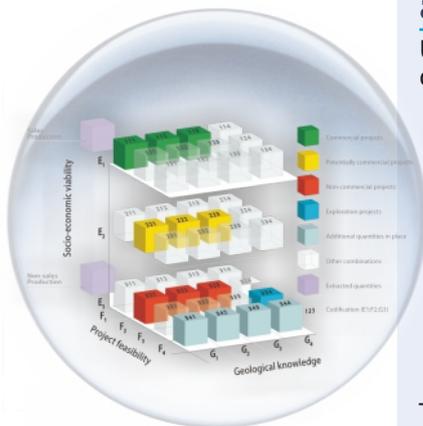


Sustainable Energy



Key rules of application for the UN Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources now released for public comment

UNECE has just released for public comment the draft generic specifications, or basic rules of application, for the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC). Comments are invited from all relevant constituencies up until 22 December, and these will be made publicly available on the website.

The specifications were prepared by a dedicated Task Force of the UNECE Expert Group on Resource Classification. According to David MacDonald, Chair of the Expert Group and Vice President of Segment Reserves, BP Exploration, "for any commodity, it's critical that reserve or resource quantities that are reported as UNFC compliant are sufficiently comparable to provide meaningful information to users of the data. Issuing the draft specifications now for public comment is a key step towards achieving this".

The Task Force confined itself to those specifications which would be needed for an appropriate level of consistency in reporting reserve and resource estimates under the system. It did not address specifications for particular commodities such as solid minerals and petroleum, as the Expert Group considered it better to incorporate these in existing commodity-specific classification systems.

As well as providing generic specifications, a linkage needed to be established between the UNFC and these commodity-specific systems. This was to ensure that the appropriate specifications would be applied at a commodity level for reserve and resource assessments.

The framework for this linkage was developed in the form of commodity-specific "bridging documents" for solid minerals, based on the Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO) International Reporting Template, and for petroleum, based on the Petroleum Resource Management System (SPE-PRMS) of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), the World Petroleum Council (WPC), the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and the Society of Petroleum Evaluation Engineers (SPEE). SPE-PRMS is also endorsed by the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG). □

The draft specifications and the accompanying explanatory report are available at: <http://www.unece.org/energy/se/reserves.html>.

For further information, please contact Charlotte Griffiths at: reserves.energy@unece.org.

Expert Opinion

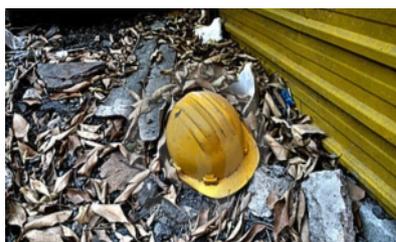
Should diesel cars be banned from cities?

This week, Martin Williams, Professor at King's College, London, and Chair of the Executive Body of the UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, asks: **Should diesel cars be banned from cities?** □

Find out for yourself! <http://www.unece.org>.



Industrial Accidents



Improving industrial safety in the Balkans

UNECE organized a three-day training session (22–24 October) in Split, Croatia, on on-site inspections of hazardous installations, which included a simulated on-site inspection of an oil storage facility thanks to the cooperation of the Croatian authorities. The training session targeted inspectors from Croatia, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and aimed at supporting them in effectively designing and running inspections of hazardous industrial sites.

Inspections play a crucial role for the prevention of industrial accidents. Organizing routine inspections helps operators of industrial installations to detect (and remedy) actual or potential deficiencies and helps the authorities to check the operator's compliance with the legislation. During the session, inspectors — assisted by international experts from Denmark, the United Kingdom and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission — planned, designed and ran a simulated inspection on the basis of documents provided by the operator of the oil storage facility. They had the chance to visit the installation, to put technical questions to the operator and to inspect the facility. After the inspection, the

Not an official record - For information only

participants were given the possibility to go through the procedures for evaluating inspections and preparing the relevant reports.

The training session is the third phase of a project on the evaluation of safety reports and on-site inspection for Croatia, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia carried out within the Assistance Programme of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. The preceding phases were implemented in 2010 and 2011 and have already produced a number of positive results, including the development of a checklist system for safety reports and, in Serbia and Croatia, to the adoption of the relevant legislation. □

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30842>

or contact Virginia Fuse at:

virginia.fuse@unece.org.

TER Project



Making railway connections more efficient

The UNECE Trans-European Railway (TER) Project continues its close collaboration with the South East Transport Axis (SETA) project to make rail travel faster and more efficient. SETA, which works to improve accessibility and logistics operations in South-East Europe to foster regional development, is financed by the European Commission's South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme. As part of this cooperation, the TER Project Manager participated in the Hungarian Transport Days Conference held on 1-3 October 2012.

Conference participants reviewed the findings of a demonstration train run organized by SETA on 28 September. The demonstration took place on the 371 km-long rail route between Zagreb and Vienna. The run took less than five hours, while at normal speeds it usually takes more than six hours. This success was thanks to active support from railway companies and authorities from three countries (Croatia, Hungary, Austria), which made it possible to overcome traditional bottlenecks (police & custom controls, number of stops, waiting times, etc.).

This demonstration run was the first step towards the introduction of a competitive passenger transport service on an international level. It will be followed by an initial set of small scale infrastructure investment measures. With investments planned by railway infrastructure providers to be up and running by 2015 (mainly in Western Hungary), travel time would be reduced to about four hours. Businesses in the regions along the railway corridor will benefit from more and better connections between the two capitals and beyond, including the Adriatic ports of Rijeka, Koper and Monfalcone, which will open up new opportunities for international trade.

These developments are in line with recommendations from the UNECE study on Hinterland Connections of Seaports, published in 2010, which described container and ferry transport trends and analyzed policy responses to traffic congestion and other problems in the UNECE region (http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5_ge1_04.html), as well as recommendations on rail demonstration runs (<http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/brochures.html>) prepared by the Working Party on Rail Transport. □

For more information of the TER project, please visit:

http://www.unece.org/trans/main/tem_ter.html.

Facts and Figures

Starkest contrasts in UNECE region's unemployment rates

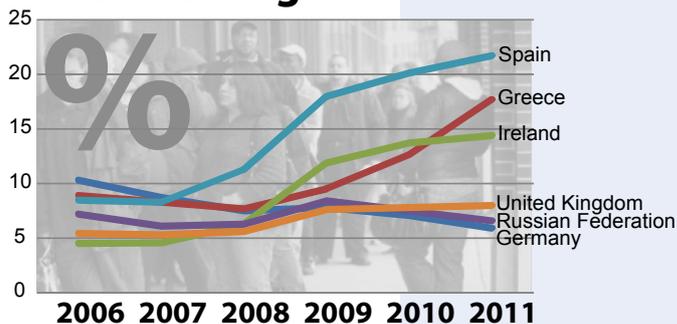
The unemployment figures for countries in the UNECE region vary significantly from country to country. The following are just some examples of the huge differences in the trends.

In the five years from 2006 to 2011, Spain saw its unemployment rate soar from 8.5% to 21.7%. Greece's unemployment rate climbed from 8.9% to 17.7%, and Ireland's from 4.5% to 14.4%.

By contrast, Germany's unemployment has been steadily decreasing— from 10.3% in 2006 to 5.9% in 2011. This makes Germany the country with the second lowest unemployment rate in the UNECE region after Switzerland, with 4%.

In the Russian Federation, the unemployment rate rose from 7.2% in 2006 to 8% in 2009, but in 2011 fell to 6.6%. The United Kingdom saw an increase in unemployment from 6% to 8% between 2008 and 2009, and the rate has remained steady. □

Unemployment rates in UNECE region



Source: UNECE Statistical database: <http://www.unece.org/stats/data>.